

For more info about Brand Israel:

<http://www.forward.com/articles/2070/>

For more information about the cultural boycott: www.PACBI.org.

For more information about Israeli human rights violations:

www.btselem.org, <http://www.phrmg.org/>.

For more on Batsheva and the Cultural Boycott:

<http://mondoweiss.net/2010/09/why-we-are-boycotting-the-batsheva-dance-company.html>,

<http://adalahny.org/initiative/770/boycott-batsheva-dance-company-2012-tour>

This flier brought to you by Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism (QUIT!) www.quitpalestine.org, info@quitpalestine.org



Palestinians wait to cross a checkpoint near the West Bank city of Nablus.

WHICH TUTU IS FOR YOU?



Bishop Desmond Tutu opposes apartheid, whether in South Africa or in Israel.

"I have been to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and I have witnessed the racially segregated roads and housing that reminded me so much of the conditions we experienced in South Africa under the racist system of apartheid....In South Africa, we could not have achieved our freedom and just peace without the help of people around the world, who through the use of nonviolent means, such as boycotts and divestment, encouraged their governments and other corporate actors to reverse decades-long support for the apartheid regime."

Israeli dance companies like the Israel Ballet (*pictured here*) and Batsheva Dance Company support apartheid and occupation by accepting funding and promotion from the Israeli government, while refusing to condemn its violations of human rights and international law.



"Exhibits and performances by Palestinian artists are systematically banned, sabotaged, and closed down by the Israeli occupation. Artists themselves are targets of violence, arbitrary arrests, and deportations."

--Hana Awwad, Palestinian dancer

Isn't Israel the only democracy in the Middle East?

Israel is a democracy for Jewish citizens of Israel only. Arab citizens of Israel, who are 20% of the population, are excluded from land ownership, and discriminated against in education, employment and many other aspects of life. The most recent discriminatory laws are the **Citizenship Law** (2003), which denies Palestinian Arabs the right to become citizens through marriage which other non-Jewish foreigners possess, and the **Nakba Law** (2011), which forbids commemorating the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians from their land in 1948. Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories, illegally annexed by Israel in 1967, live under harsh Israeli military control. Their homes and olive groves are regularly demolished by Israeli bulldozers as collective punishment for resistance to occupation. They can be detained indefinitely without charge ("administrative detention") and even be assassinated ("targeted killings").



Palestinian girls protest the planned demolition of their school by Israeli forces

Why protest Batsheva Dance Company?

The Batsheva Company is a representative of the Israeli government.

"The company is funded jointly by the Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Municipality of Tel Aviv. Touring support is provided by the Department of Cultural and Scientific Relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

—Website of Batsheva Dance Company

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has characterized Batsheva as "the best known global ambassador of Israeli culture."

In 2006, a decisive majority of Palestinian cultural workers, including most filmmakers and artists, supported by hundreds of international cultural workers, appealed to all international artists and filmmakers of good conscience to join the institutional cultural boycott against Israel.

We are not protesting Batsheva merely because they are Israelis. We are protesting the fact that:

-- They are participating in a "Brand Israel" tour organized by the Israeli Foreign Ministry. "Brand Israel" was announced in 2007 to shift Israel's image in the world away from occupation and war. "Cultural diplomacy" events like the Batsheva tour are explicit tools in this rebranding campaign.

-- In 2009, Arye Mekel of Israel's Foreign Ministry told a reporter, "We will send well-known novelists and writers overseas, theater companies, exhibits . . . This way you show Israel's prettier face, so we are not thought of purely in the context of war."

-- We and other activists around the country have repeatedly asked Batsheva to make a statement opposing its government's policies of occupation and apartheid. If the company had done so, we would not be protesting their appearances, but Batsheva did not respond.

What can you do?

Read and learn about the Palestinian struggle and the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement. See back flap for some sources of information about Israel and Palestine and the cultural boycott.

Tear off this coupon and give it to an usher.

Dear Yerba Buena Cultural Center:

Your website states that "Contemporary artists that come to YBCA are very often deeply engaged with the social context. They are interested in exposing and challenging some of the inequities that exist in the contemporary world and making us think more deeply about issues of social justice, creating change and striving for a better world." Unfortunately, Batsheva Dance Company is doing the opposite. In the face of a specific call from Palestinian artists to support their struggle for freedom and justice, Batsheva has remained silent. Before planning future programs, please educate yourselves about and respect the guidelines of the Palestinian Campaign for the Cultural and Academic Boycott of Israel.